

31 July 1962

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NOTE BY THE SECRETARIES

to the

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

on

BUILDUP PLANNING FOR BERLIN CRISIS (U)

Reference: JCS 1907/440 *472 Berlin / J. 100*

(6 Oct 61)

1. The enclosed memorandum by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA), I-18886/62, dated 31 July 1962, subject as above, is referred to the J-5 for comment and consideration.
2. A report is required by 0800, 2 August 1962.

M. J. INGELIDO

R. C. FORBES

Joint Secretariat

RG 21D

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
International Security AffairsIn Reply Refer
to: I-18886/62

31 July 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

Subject: Buildup Planning for Berlin Crisis

1. The President, in NSAM 109,* described the four phases into which he expected progressive US and Allied military action would fall in the process of meeting and countering Soviet/GDR measures to force the Western powers out of Berlin. The timing of Phase I cannot now be determined with any accuracy, but it appears more likely than not that Phase II will develop at least to some extent before satisfactory solutions can be arrived at, with always the very real possibility that Phase III and even Phase IV could follow.

2. A considerable volume of planning has been accomplished, by the US, the tripartite and quadripartite powers, and NATO, in anticipation of such a situation. SACEUR has stated, however, in paragraph 3 of his letter** of 24 March 1962 to the Chairman of the Standing Group on the subject of Berlin Contingency Planning, that the foundation offered by our present force posture is not strong enough to support satisfactorily the BERCON operations. In addition, the timing of preparatory measures required for these and for LIVE OAK plans has not been determined.

3. Your recommendations, therefore, are urgently requested on the timing and extent of US and Allied buildup in Phase II. Specifically, your best judgment is requested on the questions listed below.

a. Disregarding political implications, but from the viewpoint of military readiness,

* Attachment to JCS 1907/440

** SHAPE 70-62; on file in Joint Secretariat; available through Subregistries

(1) What degree and nature of US mobilization do you contemplate?

(2) When should it be ordered into execution?

b. What reinforcements should be ordered to Europe, and when should these forces be moved?

c. At what point, based on military considerations, should dependents be returned to the US?

d. What is your judgment on the contributions which are realistically feasible for and required from the NATO Allies, and your best estimate on the times at which these should be made?

e. From a practical and realistic viewpoint, what is the status readiness to execute the plans now in being?

f. Are there additional planning or preparatory measures which you believe should be taken? If so, what are they and what should their timing be?

g. In which phases of NSAM 109 do you consider that the specific LIVE OAK and BERCON/MARCON plans should most appropriately be executed?

4. At least a preliminary estimate is required for inclusion in a briefing now being prepared by the Department of State for presentation to the President, which is intended to describe for him the political, military, and economic planning which has been accomplished in the Berlin contingency, as well as to point out what work remains to be done in this area, and what decisions are, or may be, required. The exact time of this briefing has not yet been determined, but it is anticipated that it will be presented within the next week or ten days. For this purpose, therefore, the preliminary estimate is needed by the close of business Friday, 3 August.

/s/ Paul H. Nitze

JCS 1907/526

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Enclosure